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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2930
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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SUBJ: SENIOR PRC OFFICIAL AND MEDIA ON THE ISRAELI BOMBING OF THE IRAQI FACILITY AND THE MID-EAST SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE JUNE 7 ISRAELI BOMBING OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY. HEAVY CHINESE MEDIA REPLAY OF NEGATIVE FOREIGN REACTION HAS INCLUDED US STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS, WHILE A COMMENTARY CONTENDS THAT THE U.S. WAS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR ISRAELI ACTIONS. OTHER ARTICLES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT BEGIN, IN A BID FOR RE-ELECTION AND EFFORT TO INCREASE U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, HAS DELIBERATELY MOVED TO AGGRAVATE TENSIONS IN THE AREA, BUT PREDICT HE MAY "REAP A BITTER HARVEST." RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ARE SEEN AS

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COMPLICATING ON-GOING U.S. EFFORTS TO EASE
CURRENT TENSIONS IN THE REGIN. THE COMMENTARIES
CITE THE NEED FOR EARLY U.S. INVOLVEMENT OF THE PLO IN
THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE EXERTION OF GREATER U.S. PRES-
SURE ON ISRAEL AS IMPORTANT TO LIMITING
THE GROWTH OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION.
NEVERTHELESS, THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH DECISIONS WOULD NOT
BE EASY FOR THE U.S. END SUMMARY.
2. PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA HAS CONDEMNED THE
ISRAELI BOMBING OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY AS "AN
ACT OF FLAGRANT INVASION OF A SOVERIEGN STATE." HE
ALSO REITERATED PRC SUPPORT FOR IRAQ AND THE ARAB
PEOPLE'S "JUST STRUGGLES" AT A JUNE 9 WELCOMING BANQUET
FOR VISITING CYPRIOT OFFICIALS.
3. CHINA'S MEDIA HAVE HEAVILY REPLAYED NEGATIVE FOREIGN
REACTION TO THE ISRAELI RAID. THEY HAVE NOTED, INTER ALIA,
THE US STATEMENT CONDEMNING ISRAEL'S ACTION AND THE
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DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT INDICATING THAT
ISRAELI USE OF US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT WOULD BE IN VIOLA-
TION OF US LAWS. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO
CHINESE PRESS COMMENTARIES, ISRAEL COUID NOT "PLAY THE
TYRANT WITHOUT US BACKING." THE COMMENTARIES ALSO
HAVE DECRIED ISRAELI CONTENTIONS THAT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR
PROGRAM THREATENED ISRAELI SECURITY AND HAVE CITED
ISRAEL'S OWN "SECRET" NUCLEAR WEAPONS EFFORT.
4. IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL STEP-UP IN PRC CRITICISM
OF RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS, PRC MEDIA HAVE
CHARGED THAT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY
MOVED TO INCREASE MID EAST TENSIONS TO
WIN GREATER SUPPORT IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THEY ALSO
POSIT THAT BEGIN IS SEEKING TO WELD THE US MORE CLOSELY
TO ISRAEL'S SIDE AS THE US REACTS TO SOVIET MOVES
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTING TURMOIL IN THE REGION.
HOWEVER, THIS ALLEGED STRATEGY OF ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WILL
RESULT IN HIS REAPING A "BITTER HARVEST," ACCORDING TO ONE
COMMENTARY.
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5. WITH REGARD TO THE US, THE COMMENTARIES NOTE THAT THE RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LEBANON AND IRAQ COME AT
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A TIME WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION MAY BE CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN ITS OVERALL MID-EAST POLICY. THE EARLIER HAIG VISIT TO THE REGION IS SAID TO HAVE LEFT THE ARAB NATIONS "DISSATISFIED AND DISAPPOINTED." CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION ARE VIEWED AS REDUCING THE TIME THE US HAS TO MAKE IMPORTANT CHOICES CONCERNING MID-EAST POLICIES. ADDITIONALLY, THE ISRAELI RAID IS SAID TO RENDER THE HABIB MISSION MORE DIFFICULT AND TO COMPLICATE OTHER US INITIATIVES.
6. AFTER NOTING OPPOSITION TO THE CAMP DAVID PEACE PROCESS AND THE "JORDAN SELECTION" BY SOME ARAB COUNTRIES, AN NCNA CORRESPONDENT ARGUED THAT THE MAIN US DIFFICULTIES STEM FROM PARTIALITY TOWARD ISRAEL, A LACK OF US DETERMINA-
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TION TO EXERT SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, AND A FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE PLO IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THE PRESS COMMENTATORS ALL SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT EXERTING GREATER PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND INCLUDING THE PLO IN THE PEACE PROCESS ARE "NOT EASY" FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. NEVERTHELESS, THEY IMPLY THAT SUCH DECISIONS ARE MANDATORY IF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION IS TO BE CONTAINED.

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